Theatre tax relief (TTR)

What is TTR?

TTR is a tax relief aimed at companies producing theatrical performances. These include plays, operas, musicals, ballets or other dramatic pieces. The headline is, for every £100 spent producing a show, a company may be able reclaim £36 by making a TTR claim, increasing to £40 if the production is touring.

Are we eligible?

To be eligible for the relief, your company must have overall control and responsibility for the show — the Theatrical Production Company (TPC), as the legislation refers to it. You must also be subject to corporation tax, whether as a commercial company or a charitable company — even if the charity doesn't submit annual returns and ordinarily pay tax.

What are the criteria for a production to qualify?

The key points for a production to qualify are:

- Must be mainly performed live.
- Intended audience amounts to more than five individuals.
- Recording the production is not the main object.
- Performing for paying members of the public, or for education purposes.
- At least 10% of the expenditure is in the UK.
- It doesn't involve wild animals and isn't of a sexual nature.

My company meets all the criteria – how do I claim?

TTR claims must be included in a company's corporation tax self-assessment, within two years from the end of the accounting period. There's a list of supplementary information that must be provided to HMRC, such as the total expenditure, and the total tax credit being claimed etc. There's also suggested information that'll help HMRC determine eligibility and process the claim faster — such as a breakdown of expenditure and an analysis for each production, as well as details of any apportionments or assumptions used.

At CT, we have a great deal of experience supporting companies through this process. We aim to submit claims that maximise the relief available but are also well evidenced — to minimise the risk of HMRC raising an enquiry.

We love to hear about all the interesting productions you're showcasing, so if you have any questions, please contact: Conall.boyle@ct.me

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